

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 5

MAY/JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Dear Fellow Arizonan:

Last month our nation paused to remember our fallen heroes, the men and women who answered the call of freedom and paid the ultimate sacrifice. As the son of U.S. Army Major General (ret.) Gene Renzi, I was taught to hold the men and women who serve our nation in the highest regard and I believe that Memorial Day is perhaps the most important holiday our nation celebrates. It recognizes the sacrifices made by our courageous men and women who have fallen in defense of our nation's liberty. And without these brave Americans, no other holidays would be possible.

The dedication of those who serve or have served in our Armed Forces is an inspiration to all who love our nation and its freedoms. America has always been a nation devoted to the cause of liberty both at home and abroad. Through their bravery, our fallen heroes have advanced freedom's cause and allowed us to live free and be secure. It is because of their brave sacrifices that I am free, and that my family is free. On behalf of my family and a grateful nation, I would like to say thank you to all of our fallen heroes and our veterans.

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Rick Renzi

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please send an email to rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and type UNSUBSCRIBE.



Congressman Renzi presents a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to the Manning family of Flagstaff in honor of their father who served in World War II and was recently buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Rural Arizona Veterans Update...

- * Renzi Fights to Provide Higher Quality of Life for Military and Veterans
- * Congressman Renzi Fights to Protect Veterans Personal Financial Data
- * Congressman Renzi Secures American Flags for Prescott Valley VFW Post in Time for Memorial Day

Rural Arizona Legislative Update...

- * Renzi Fights for Payson Firebreak
- * House Passes Renzi Bill to Protect Arizona from Threat of Wildfire
- * Renzi Delivers \$1 Million for Safford Wastewater Treatment Plant
- * Congressman Renzi Announces New Collaborative Center Between TGen and NAU for Pathogen Technology and Diagnostics

Native American Legislative Update...

- * Renzi Promises to Fight for More Funding for Navajo Education, Housing and Law Enforcement During Annual Visits to Chapter Houses
- * Renzi Pushes Arizona Legislature to Improve Indian Education

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 5

MAY/JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Rural Arizona Veterans Update

Renzi Fights to Provide Higher Quality of Life for Military and Veterans

Congressman Rick Renzi fought to provide a higher quality of life for the members of America's military and veterans as the House passed H.R. 5385, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act. The bill contains \$2.6 billion above last year's funding levels and totals more than \$25.4 billion. Congressman Renzi has been an outspoken advocate for increased funding for veterans services and voted against the budget because it did not do enough to help America's veterans. The funding increase will be used to help not only current veterans but will help returning veterans from the conflicts in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"America must keep its promise to the brave men and women who have fought for our freedom and liberty," said Congressman Renzi. "This funding is a small step towards helping to provide new veterans' clinics, improve veterans' homes and increase the quality of veterans' healthcare for all of our returning soldiers."

The bill increases resources by \$25 million to open a minimum of 10 clinics in fiscal year 2007. These clinics provide more convenient care than traditional large hospital facilities. The bill increases resources by \$20 million over last year's level and the request to make facility improvements in existing state veteran's homes. The bill increases funds by \$13 million for basic research for a total of \$412 million. In addition, \$12 million was added to start upgrading VA medical research facilities nationwide. Mandatory veteran's benefits are increased \$4.2 billion over last year and the defense health program is increased by \$1 billion over last year.

Congressman Renzi Fights to Protect Veterans Personal Financial Data

Congressman Rick Renzi recently announced that he is a co-sponsor of bipartisan legislation to create a uniform, national standard to protect consumers from breaches of data security. The bill also requires financial services companies to improve protection of sensitive information.

"This legislation will protect American consumers and the 26.5 million veterans who were impacted by the data breach earlier this week," said Congressman Renzi. "This is just the most recent high-profile crack in financial security data protections and millions have been exposed to account fraud and identity theft. This measure will help safeguard our veterans and their financial data in the future."

Congressman Renzi Secures American Flags for Prescott Valley VFW Post in Time for Memorial Day

Congressman Rick Renzi recently secured 30 American flags for the Prescott Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post # 10227 to be used for a Memorial Day display along highway 69 in Prescott Valley. The Prescott Valley VFW will also display the flags on Flag Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day. Post Commander Wesley Walker contacted Congressman Renzi's office to request assistance in replacing 30 flags because many of the two hundred flags that are normally used have deteriorated and are unable to be respectfully displayed. The idea to display the flags began in 1985 when the idea was presented to the Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Prescott Valley VFW started out with thirty flags in 1985 and currently the post displays more than 200 flags during patriotic American holidays.

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 5

MAY/JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Rural Arizona Legislative Update



Renzi Fights for Payson Firebreak on Floor of the House

Congressman Rick Renzi took to the floor of the House of Representatives recently to fight for a new firebreak to protect Payson and the Rim Country from the threat of wildfire. Congressman Renzi also secured a promise of assistance from Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Charles Taylor (NC) to help protect Payson and other communities in rural Arizona. Renzi was successful in getting the town of Payson included in the language of the Fiscal Year 2007 Interior Appropriations bill conference report. The report states the "Committee encourages the Forest Service to carefully evaluate the need for fire breaks near Payson, AZ and proceed accordingly." The hazardous fuels reduction language singles out Payson for evaluation and this will mean more wildfire funds for Arizona to assist state and local firefighters. Congressman Renzi has pushed for an increase in funding for the National Fire Plan and the Fiscal Year 2007 Interior Appropriations bill conference report calls for an increase of more than \$80 million dollars.

Congressman Renzi leads the debate in Congress to build a consensus on the federal response to forest fires in rural Arizona and across the nation. Renzi is working collaboratively with the forest related community in Washington and Arizona to raise awareness and promote the importance of restoration efforts and improve the health of our nation's forests. Earlier in May, the House passed HR 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, co-sponsored by Congressman Renzi. The bill will give land managers the tools they need to promptly restore and reforest public lands. It will also assist with forest rehabilitation following catastrophic events, like Arizona's Rodeo-Chediski fire, as recommended by the scientific community.

House Passes Renzi Bill to Protect Arizona from Threat of Wildfire

The House of Representatives recently passed HR 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, co-sponsored by Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) by a vote of 243 to 182. The bill, which had 147 bipartisan cosponsors, will give land managers the tools they need to promptly restore and reforest public lands. It will assist with forest rehabilitation following catastrophic events, like Arizona's Rodeo-Chediski fire, as recommended by the scientific community.

Renzi said current red tape often forces federal agencies to wait years before properly managing destroyed areas filled with dead and dying trees. Renzi also said that this increases the risk of environmental damage, increased difficulty for successful recovery and potential economic value of dead timber rots away. The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act would allow land managers to quickly start restoration efforts in National Forests in order to increase the long-term health and recovery of the forest. H.R. 4200 is supported by the National Federation of Federal

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 5

MAY/JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Rural Arizona Legislative Update Part 2



Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) appeared on CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight recently and said President Bush's plan to send National Guard troops to help secure the U.S. / Mexico border was an important first step.

Renzi Delivers \$1 Million for Safford Wastewater Treatment Plant

The House approved \$1 million for the City of Safford in May to assist with the debt repayment for Safford's waste treatment plant and is in addition to the \$800,000 Renzi secured last summer. This is the first step in getting Safford its money. The funding must also be approved by the full Appropriations Committee as well as the House of Representatives before it is considered by the Senate.

"Safford's wastewater treatment plant is vital to the community because it serves Arizona's rapidly growing population in Eastern Arizona," said Congressman Renzi.

Congressman Renzi Announces New Collaborative Center Between TGen and NAU for Pathogen Technology and Diagnostics

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) recently announced efforts to build a new collaborative research center

between Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and Northern Arizona University (NAU) for pathogen technology diagnostics. The new facility will be based in Flagstaff and represents a significant step forward in Arizona's biosciences corridor expansion.

Congressman Renzi was joined at the announcement by Flagstaff Mayor Joe Donaldson, TGen Director Paul Keim, Northern Arizona University President John Haeger, Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce President Julie Patrick and Greater Flagstaff Economic Council Director Stephanie McKinney.

"Today's launch of TGen North fulfills the goal we set out when TGen was established four years ago," said Congressman Renzi. "And that was to bring new bioscience jobs and opportunities to the people of northern Arizona. TGen North will continue the unique work to improve the public health and biosecurity for our nation."

The new 5,000 square foot facility, called TGen North, will be led by nationally recognized biosafety expert Dr. Paul Keim, who is currently the Director of the TGen's Pathogen Genomics Division and is a professor of biology and Cowden Endowed Chair in Microbiology at NAU. The facility will be located at the newly constructed technology incubator at the Airpark in Flagstaff. The scientific focus of TGen North will be to use the genomic technology and tools TGen typically applies to disease and apply them to biodefense, pathogen diagnostics and microbial forensics, thereby continuing TGen's mission of developing earlier diagnoses and smarter treatments.

The new TGen Center is funded by multiple federal agencies that support medical diagnostics, forensic analyses and biodefense-related work including the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Homeland Security and others. Construction of the

new facility is expected to begin shortly and TGen North is scheduled to be operational in the fall of

2006.

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 5

MAY/JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Rural Arizona Native American Update



Congressman Renzi congratulates new Navajo Nation West Point Cadet Vernalda Haskie. Congressman Renzi nominated Vernalda for the appointment to the nation's premier military academy.

Renzi Promises to Fight for Navajo Nation During Visits to Chapter Houses

Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) recently traveled throughout the Navajo Nation to visit and host Coffee with the Congressman events in the communities of Tolani Lake, Tuba City, Whippoorwill, Whitecone, Dilkon, Nazlini, Cornfields, Ganado, Steamboat and Burnside. Renzi promised to fight for more funding for Navajo education, housing and law enforcement. Renzi's trip was an opportunity to update constituents and the local Navajo leadership on tribal issues in Washington as well as hear any concerns from those living on the Navajo Nation. Congressman Renzi toured the Navajo FlexCrete Plant in Page, Arizona, which is owned and operated by the Navajo Housing Authority. The FlexCrete plant produces lightweight and sturdy building materials from ash which are

being used to construct buildings for the residents of the Navajo Nation.

Congressman Renzi also addressed federal efforts to combat the production and use of methamphetamine on tribal lands. He informed the community that he has secured over \$1 million to combat the meth epidemic in northern Arizona and that the House of Representatives recently passed legislation he sponsored to direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy to include tribal governments as part of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. The purpose of the HIDTA program is to enhance and coordinate drug control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Renzi's amendment directs the Office of National Drug Control Policy to specifically include the Navajo Nation in its drug control efforts, as well as other tribal lands in rural Arizona.

Since coming to Congress, Renzi has visited 45 of the 58 Navajo Chapters in Arizona and said he is committed to visiting the remaining 12 Chapters over the next year. Congressman Renzi opened the first Congressional office ever in Indian Country on the Navajo Nation when he was first elected.

Renzi Pushes Arizona Legislature to Improve Indian Education

Congressman Rick Renzi recently wrote to Arizona Speaker of the House Jim Weiers to show his support for SB1363, the Indian Education Act being considered by the Arizona State Legislature. Renzi said that it was vital for the state to work to address the unique needs of Native American students.

Renzi said he supported the bill because it works to establish an Indian Education Advisory Council within the Department of Education that will be

comprised of not only teachers, but also parents. The goal of the council is to work together to evaluate the

needs of Native American students throughout Arizona.

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 5

MAY/JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

In Case You Missed It...

Work proceeding to repair flood dike outside Florence

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16726195&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=68561&rft=6

Local vets face I.D. theft after burglary

<http://www.eacourier.com/articles/2006/05/30/update/tuesday/news02.txt>

Legislation targets damaged trees

<http://www.eacourier.com/articles/2006/05/24/update/wednesday/news01.txt>

Pol power

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0522AZinDC0522.html>

Pathogen diagnostic research will be centered in Flagstaff

<http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=4972618&nav=HMO6>

Drug-plan help

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0515AZinDC0515.html>

Saving the wounded remains the calling of warrior priest

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/columns/articles/0509montini0509.html>

Office Contact Information:

WASHINGTON OFFICE

418 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515-0301

O 202-225-2315

F 202-226-9739

FLAGSTAFF OFFICE

123 N. San Francisco Street, Suite 105

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

O 928-213-3434

F 928-213-5447

SHOW LOW OFFICE

1151 East Deuce of Clubs

Suite A

Show Low, AZ 85901

O 928-537-2800

F 928-532-5088

PRESCOTT OFFICE

107 North Cortez, Suite 208

Prescott, AZ 86301

O 928-708-9120

F 928-708-9121

CASA GRANDE OFFICE

501 N. Florence Street Suite 102

Casa Grande, AZ 85222

O 520-876-0929

F 520-876-9374

WINDOW ROCK OFFICE

DNA Legal Services Building

P.O. Box 4673

Window Rock, AZ 86515

O 928-607-0792

F 928-213-5447

SAFFORD OFFICE

1420 1st Ave., Suite 100

Safford, AZ 85546

O 928-428-8194

F 928-428-5005

SAN CARLOS OFFICE

EPA Building

10 West Tonto

P.O. Box 0

San Carlos, AZ 85550

WHITERIVER OFFICE -
Apache Veteran's Center
201 East Walnut
Whiteriver, AZ 85941
O 928-853-3750